



TOWN OF WILTON

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Director of Planning &
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Lucy B. Harlow
Executive Secretary

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MAY 28, 2015 AT 4 PM

Call to Order: 4:15 pm

Present: Joanne Klepetar, Michael Dobis, Chris Ramsdill, Robert Barrett, Jaclyn Hakes, AICP, Ryan Riper, P.E.; Lucy Harlow, Amy DiLeone and Mark Mykins.

Absent: Ron Slone and Steve Streicher

Also Present: Dave Buchyn.

Ryan Riper thanks everyone who is in attendance and asks if the committee has had an opportunity to review the minutes of the public hearing. The committee reviews the minutes from the May 12, 2015 Public Hearing and approves the minutes with minor changes.

I. Consideration of Public Comments: The meeting was called to discuss any public comments made during or after the public hearing on May 12th. Dave Buchyn had a couple of comments regarding public polling. Ryan sent everyone an email with Mr. Buchyn's comments and received some responses. Ryan asks if there is anything the committee wants to change in the Comp Plan based on comments that were discussed. Mr. Ramsdill would like to comment on Mr. Buchyn's remarks at the public hearing; it seemed that the committee was able to point to elements of the plan or revisions that addressed concerns that came up at the meeting. Mr. Riper did send out Mr. Buchyn's comments regarding the polling question. Mr. Streicher and Mr. Slone and Mark Mykins had responses.

Dave Buchyn mentions his comments and asks whether they were on the website. After the meeting on the 12th, he went back and reviewed the September meeting minutes and the newspaper articles; did some researching and at the first meeting, the consensus seemed to be that polling was going to be done. He was at that meeting and recalls the remarks about needing to have a poll. As of the 4th of November, there was still talk about polling and so his initial question was "Where are the results of the polling?" The response was that it was decided not to do polling and Mr. Buchyn wonders was that a decision that was made by the committee or did it just fall by the way. He's not saying one way or another to do polling just that it was brought up and it seemed like everyone agreed to do polling and it was still being talked about two months later and there were no results.

Mr. Riper comments that he thought polling would be done if there were major changes, land use changes, if there were any significant changes or anything that was questionable within the committee that might be worthy of sending out questions on the polling software that was going to be used, to get some feedback from the community. He raises the question, is there anything that we thought that would be considered worthy of polling?

Mr. Dobis responds that based on the last three comp plan committees he has been on, particularly the one in 2004 where there were major changes, the committee wanted input from the community on those major changes. He noticed during the course of three or four of these recent meetings that there weren't going to be any significant changes, so in his mind, as the work went on, he saw less and less of a need to poll because of the minute nature of the revisions being made. He just doesn't see the need for polling.

Mr. Barrett recalls the question of polling fell by the way side; it was more like a suggestion should anything major happen. Mr. Mykins adds he thought polling would be done should anything come up that couldn't be solved through the committee, or that the public took a particular interest in. Mr. Ramsdill recalls the context initially was Ms. Hake's suggestion that polling was a valuable tool for other communities when they were addressing issues. We all agreed that was great if we had a difficult issue. Maybe it didn't translate through the minutes that it was being discussed within the context of a means to solving a problem. It was a tool available if the committee needed it. Ms. Klepetar says one of the reasons she brought it up because the words "housekeeping" and "minor changes" were brought up early on and she was a little leery of about that because with the zoning changes in the last couple of years, it was called "housekeeping" and it was more like renovation. She thought there might be something controversial and that the Town should be able to poll in on. But she didn't see anything that warranted that action. Mr. Riper concludes that the consensus by the committee is that polling was not warranted. Mr. Buchyn would like that record in the meeting minutes. This discussion will be in the minutes of this meeting.

2. Review of the Appendices: Jackie describes the appendices to the Comp Plan document. There are two: the first is a glossary of planning terms and the second is the inventory and analysis. The original Inventory and Analysis from 2004 was brought up to date, much of this information has not changed such as the environmental and physical characteristics of the community which remain largely the same. There is some updated demographic information, some updated regulations from DEC and references to certain entities and regulations that might have been modified or changed over the course of the last few years. This exercise was to tie up any loose ends and to make sure that the Comprehensive Plan was whole particularly as it does function as a generic environmental impact statement as well. Mr. Riper encourages everyone to look through it and raise any questions or comments or offer any changes. He mentions that the current zoning schedules are attached and a better zoning map will be included. There are no comments or changes suggested by the committee at this time. Any additional comments later can be sent to Jackie.

3. Consideration of the Resolution: The draft resolution has been revised by Mark Schachner, the Town Attorney. Mr. Riper asks for questions or comments from the committee. On a motion introduced by Robert Barrett, the following resolution was adopted by the committee:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the resolution is accepted by the Town of Wilton Comprehensive Plan Update Committee. The motion is seconded by Mark Mykins and duly put to vote, all in favor, this 28th day of May, 2015.

Jackie Hakes remarks that it has been a pleasure working with the committee for the last few months. She and Sarah both looked forward to coming to these meetings, there was good discussion and the committee has pulled together a draft plan that will help Wilton for the next few years and she hopes that the Town Board agrees.

Mr. Riper also would like to thank everybody, it's been great and he thinks the discussion has been really good and everyone has stayed focused. It was a lot of work and the fact that it kept moving forward kept it fresh.

The meeting is adjourned at 4:38 pm.